

In the claims:

1. (previously presented) A method comprising:
determining, by a server computing system responsible for installing operating systems on client computing systems, which drivers are needed for devices on the client computing systems that are not automatically found and installed on the client computing systems during vendor-specified operating system installation on the client computing systems;
creating without user interaction, by the server computing system, entries for the drivers within a master driver file; and,
for each client computing system, creating references within an unattended installation file for the client computing system to the entries for the drivers of the devices for the client computing system within the master driver file, by the server computing system,
wherein the unattended installation file is a different file than the master driver file is.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining which drivers are needed for the devices on the client computing systems that are not automatically found and installed on the client computing systems during operating system installation comprises determining which drivers are needed for mass storage devices on the client computing systems that are not automatically found and installed on the client computing systems during vendor-specified operating system installation.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining which drivers are needed for the devices on the client computing systems that are not automatically found and installed on the client computing systems during operating system installation comprises remotely scanning hardware on the client computing systems to learn of the devices that are not automatically found and installed on the client computing systems during operating system installation.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating entries for the drivers within the master driver file comprises creating entries for the drivers within the master driver file that are not already present within the master driver file.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating entries for the drivers within the master driver file comprises creating entries for the drivers within the master driver file as stored on a server computing system.
6. (original) The method of claim 5, further comprising copying the master driver file to each client computing system, wherein creating references within the unattended installation file for each client computing system to the entries for the drivers of the devices within the master driver file comprises creating the references to the entries for the drivers of the devices within the master driver file as copied to the client computing system.
7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein copying the master driver file to each client computing system comprises copying the master driver file in its entirety to each client computing system.
8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein copying the master driver file to each client computing system comprises, for each client computing system, copying only those parts of the master driver file that include the entries for the drivers that are needed for the devices on the client computing system.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, for each client computing system, copying the drivers that are needed for the devices on the client computing system to the client computing system.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising remotely installing operating systems on the client computing systems in an unattended manner, where the drivers of the devices for the client computing systems are able to be installed in the unattended manner due to the references created within the unattended installation files to the entries for the drivers of the devices within the master driver file.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the master driver file is a text mode driver file.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the unattended installation file for each client computing system is an operating system installation answer file for the client computing system.

13. (previously presented) A method comprising:

determining, by a server computing system responsible for installing operating systems on client computing systems, which drivers are needed for devices on the client computing systems that are not automatically found and installed on the client computing systems during vendor-specified operating system installation on the client computing systems;

creating without user interaction, by the server computing system, entries for the drivers within a master driver file that are not already present within the master driver file as stored on the server computing system;

copying the master driver file to each client computing system;

copying the drivers that are needed for the devices on each client computing system to the client computing system;

for each client computing system, creating references within an unattended installation file for the client computing system to the entries for the drivers of the devices for the client computing system within the master driver file as copied to the client computing system, by the server computing system; and,

remotely installing operating systems on the client computing systems in an unattended manner, where the drivers of the devices for the client computing systems are able to be installed in the unattended manner due to the references created within the unattended installation files to the entries for the drivers of the devices within the master driver file,

wherein the unattended installation file is a different file than the master driver file is.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the devices on client computing systems that are not automatically found and installed on the client computing systems during vendor-specified operating system installation on the client computing systems are mass storage devices.

15.-25. (cancelled)